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NEWS RELEASE

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Justice Barton Gaut to Retire From Fourth District Court of Appeal

Riverside—Associate Justice Barton C. Gaut, of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two (Riverside), today announced his retirement from the bench on February 28, 2010, after a distinguished 47-year career as a lawyer and jurist.

“Bart was any presiding justice’s dream: hardworking, productive, and always available,” commented Presiding Justice Manuel A. Ramirez, of Division Two. “He was principled but open to a different perspective, so you could always talk to him, and you knew he gave serious consideration to your point of view.”

Justice Gaut authored about 1,900 opinions, 105 of which were published, in his 12 years on the Court of Appeal. In addition, he ruled on hundreds of original proceedings and motions, noted Presiding Justice Ramirez.

Justice Gaut’s 12 years on the Court of Appeal were preceded by 2 years as a judge on the Superior Court of Riverside County and 33 years with the Riverside firm of Best, Best & Krieger. As a litigator, Justice Gaut specialized in complex civil trial and appellate litigation. Justice Gaut graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA with a bachelor’s degree and Order of the Coif from UC Berkeley School of Law with a juris doctorate.

A past-president of both the Riverside County Bar Association and Riverside County Barristers, Justice Gaut received the Leo A. Deegan Award for excellence in litigation and was listed in *Best Lawyers of America* in business litigation. As an appellate court justice, he served on the Judicial Council’s Task Force on Civil Jury Instructions, which rewrote civil jury instructions in plain language for use by California judges, and authored a chapter on jury

instructions for fraud and deceit in *California Forms of Jury Instruction*.

“Justice Gaut’s dedication to the court and cooperation with his colleagues have been evident since he began his tenure with Division Two of the Fourth District,” stated Presiding Justice Ramirez. “He came to the court in mid-1997 filling a newly created sixth justice position. At that time the court occupied a building in San Bernardino that had only five judicial chambers. The court was in the process of designing the building it would not occupy until the beginning of 1999. Ever the team player, Justice Gaut, along with his judicial assistant and two chambers attorneys, occupied a small conference room without complaint for the first 19 months of his appellate judicial career. He collaborated with his colleagues as they met with the building’s architect in Los Angeles to choose the unique style and character of the new building. His new chambers in the state’s first building specifically designed and built as an appellate courthouse were particularly well-deserved for his perseverance in cramped quarters and for his active participation in the building’s design. His colleagues and the entire court staff will miss him but wish him a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.”

Justice Gaut has been married to his wife, Merla, for 42 years. They have four children and six grandchildren.